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Approved For Release 2003/06/16 : CIA-RDP80R01731R002600320001-2

SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE  
WASHINGTON

JUN 20 1951

Dear General Smith:

It is now roughly six months since the Watch Committee was regularized in the IAC. This seems a suitable moment to tell you how we feel about the success of the undertaking. The operation of the Watch Committee under its new charter stands out as a definite achievement in the United States intelligence community. The Watch Committee has demonstrated its capacity to progress in effectiveness, to improve the quality of its reports, and to gain increasing respect for its conclusions. Its accomplishments to date and its potential for further growth afford great satisfaction.

In the Committee, as it is now constituted, we have the best means yet devised for pooling the resources of all the intelligence agencies at frequent and regular intervals and obtaining the most valid possible appreciation of current indications of Soviet and Communist intentions. The Committee not only is equipped to handle emergencies with utmost rapidity but also has its place of meeting and its secretariat in the Pentagon where alerts can be sent out to the Armed Forces with the least delay.

To the Department of State the present Watch Committee operation has special value in its effective joining of political and economic with military intelligence, both in the Committee's discussions and in its weekly reports. Our representatives on the Committee have personally emphasized to me the value to the Department of the full and frank participation accorded by representatives of service agencies at the meetings of the Committee.

The weekly report of the Watch Committee is used as the basis of a briefing of the Secretary of State before his attendance at regular cabinet meetings. It is circulated to

Lieutenant General Walter B. Smith,  
Director of Central Intelligence,  
Washington, D. C.

State Dept. review completed

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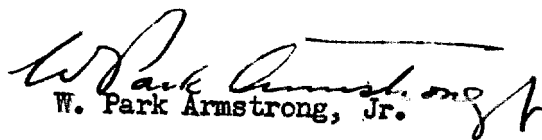
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all Assistant Secretaries, and also serves as the basis for other intelligence briefings within the Department and for a regular report to missions abroad. Needless to say, the fact that the report represents the combined effort of all intelligence agencies insures it special attention.

The Department of State feels that the experiment you started last Fall of vesting responsibility for this operation in the existing Services Watch Committee has amply shown its value and effectiveness.

Sincerely yours,

  
W. Park Armstrong, Jr.

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